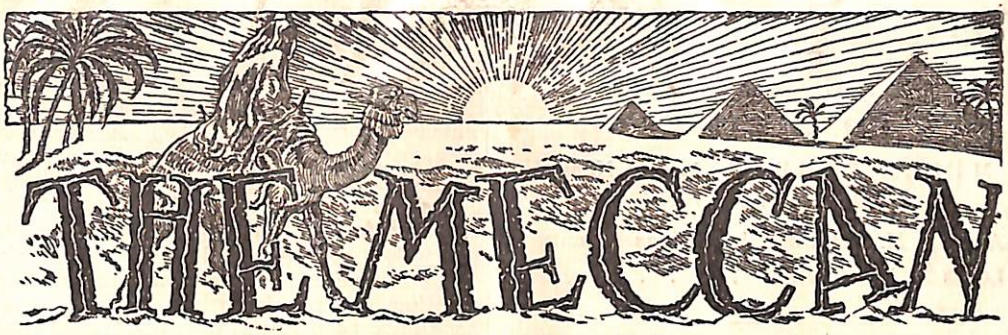

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Volume VI **DECEMBER 1923** Number 12

Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

MECCA TEMPLE

of NEW YORK, N. Y.

Illustrious Noble, Attend!

Leylet el Khamis, Twelfth Day, Fifth Month, Hejra 1342

JAMAZ UL AWWAL

Answering to

Thursday, December 20, 1923

at Seven-thirty P. M.

SEVENTY-FIRST REGIMENT ARMORY

Park Avenue at Thirty-Fourth Street

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Officers

The following Officers are to be elected at this meeting:

Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Recorder, Treasurer, One Trustee, to serve three years, Four Representatives to the Imperial Council, Five Executive Members.

Oriental Diversions!! Splendid Entertainment!!

Louis N. Donnatin
Recorder,
107 West 45th Street.

Arthur H. Rimaux
Illustrious Potentate

THE MECCAN
The Official Notice of
MECCA TEMPLE, A.A.O.N.M.S.
Oasis of New York
ARTHUR H. DIAMANT, Illustrious Potentate
LOUIS N. DONNATIN . . . . . Recorder

Headquarters, 107 West 45th Street
NEW YORK, N. Y.

The initiation fee in Mecca Temple is $150.

The affiliation fee is $75.

The annual dues are $10, but no card may be issued to a Noble who has not paid his personal assessment of $2 for the benefit of The Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children, as provided in the by-laws of the Imperial Council.

DECEMBER, 1923

1923

Another year draws to a close and a new page is about to be turned in the history of the Shrine. Let us look back a little and forward a great deal. From some angles this year has not been as prosperous as those of the immediate past. The loss in membership has not been as large as was anticipated by some, and by a few this will be regarded as a retrogression. We believe that when the report of the Imperial Recorder is read at Kansas City next June it will be found that most temples have shared our experience and have failed to make the usual gains during the past twelve months. Some hint of this was given in Washington last June, when sixteen temples failed to show a membership as large as that of the previous year, though the only dispensation for the formation of a new temple did not reduce the membership of the parent body materially.

We are facing a country-wide condition. The boom in Masonry has come to a close. The mad rush for the degrees, engendered by the war-time activities and war-time increases in salaries, has come to an end. The present growth of Masonry is not a retrogression, but rather a return to a normal and perhaps more healthy growth. We, who draw our membership from the Masonic ranks, must naturally share in this reduction in growth, and should not regard it so much as a loss of membership as a return to normal rates of progress. It is not Masonry alone, but all fraternal orders which are suffering a drop in apparent prosperity that in reality is not a drop at all. We are not singular in this condition, but share in the general lessening of the desire to join plus the inability to pay the heavy fees required, and since membership in the Shrine is dependent upon the holding of other degrees for which higher initiations have been asked, it is but logical that our progress should be checked a little more severely than in bodies wherein a single fee of perhaps $50 to $150 is all that is required.

In our own case the matter is further complicated by an increase in our own fees for initiation, made necessary through the building of the new Mosque, and it is altogether a matter for congratulation that we have made the showing represented in the Recorder's report to be read at the Annual Meeting.

The Shrine is not losing prestige, it is merely undergoing a necessary and country-wide readjustment. Next year conditions should be somewhat better and the figures should be more cheering, but it will be many years before we can hope to again arrive at the figures of 1916 to 1920.

It is nothing to worry about, and the only thing to be done is to make a more intensive drive for membership. We must get further and further away from the Island of Manhattan, since the increase in business buildings is depleting the residential sections here. We must go into the rural districts of our jurisdiction for more men, and cultivate the outlying districts. In time New York will be largely a city of business buildings, with the workers resident in New Jersey and Long Island; territory from which we may not draw new members, so it will be necessary to work harder to see that all good material remaining to us is gathered into the fold. Get busy and do your personal share in 1924.

Still There

The Meccan's compliments to the Past Potentates who so creditably put on the degree at the last Session. It was an enjoyable event and we are glad that Potentate Diamant has followed Past Potentate Jones in staging this annual event. Let's make it a regular thing. These sessions are worth while.

IN addressing you as your Potentate for the last time in The Meccan, I desire to commence this article by expressing to you all my sincere appreciation and thanks for your loyal support during my term of office. Peace and harmony exist among our Nobility, and I shall ever remember with gratitude the many kind words of encouragment and approbation showered upon me.

No matter how hard and conscientious the work of presiding officer, his efforts are in vain without the loyal cooperation of his Divan and members. Loyalty is not only the foundation of all organizations, but it is the bulwark of fraternity against all insidious attacks. The question perhaps may be asked what I mean by loyalty, and I answer that my definition of loyalty to Mecca Temple is absolute disinterestedness to self and the courage of your own convictions. Whatever you or I do for our beloved temple should not be for self, but for the greatest good for the greatest number, so that our united action will build up rather than tear down. Constructive criticism is always good, but vague complaints offered by those who are not acquainted with actual conditions soon tend to lower the morale of the organization. The men who are guiding the destiny of Mecca Temple are human, they are doing their level best, and if they make a mistake, it is from the heart, not from the head. So, in this, my last official message to you, I ask you to continue to be loyal, whoever may be your presiding officers, forget yourself in working for the best interests of our temple, and be courageous enough to say: "We know you are doing the best in your power, and we are with you."

I was very much pleased with the large attendance of our members at our Ceremonial on November 27th. Past Potentate Lewis said something about a smell of camphor when referring to the fact that our Past Potentates conferred the Nobility, but those of you who were present and witnessed the fine rendition of the ritual, know full well that we appreciate what these Past Potentates have done for Mecca Temple, that they have not been laid aside as has-beens, but rather that they are the reservoir from which we can draw a continuous stream of encouragement and enthusiasm for the work which lies before us.

The request of our Imperial Potentate, Conrad V. Dykeman, that Nobles should wear their fez on all Shrine occasions has born fruit, and I was very happy to see in the large attendance we had at our last session that the great majority of Nobles wore the proper head-gear. A year ago when I became Potentate less than 50 per cent of the members present wore fezzes; today this percentage has increased materially, and I sincerely hope that at the next ceremonial conducted by my successor everyone present will wear his fez. Make it a point to put your fez in your pocket on leaving home in the morning if you intend to go to a Shrine function on that day, or if you are a traveling man carry it in your bag so that Mecca Temple will always be known to be represented whenever you attend a ceremonial.

Mecca Temple has again been honored in my election to Honorary membership in Tigris Temple of Syracuse, and in Karem Temple in Waco, Texas, and I take this opportunity of making public acknowledgment to these temples for the honor.

And now we face the holiday season, and our coming Annual Meeting. Mecca Temple is stronger than ever, and this strength is not only within our own ranks but in

public esteem. Once we were regarded as an association for fun and frivolity only, but in addition we now have taken our place as a mighty agency for public welfare. The whole world knows that the Shrine, for all its good fellowship, has a big throbbing heart for suffering children, and that irrespective of race, creed or color, it is the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children that will make the little one's deformed body well, so as to make him or her good and worthy citizens of our beloved Republic. For this great charity we have not gone outside of our ranks, and we have much to be thankful for that we have the privilege of being members of this noble order.

In conclusion, let me again thank you for your sincere cooperation, for the kindly words of encouragement, and for your esteem and friendship. It is a most satisfying feeling to know that all who were my friends when I started my term still remain so, and that those who were merely acquaintances are now friends.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and may the new year bring for you an abundance of good cheer and health is the wish of your retiring Potentate,

Arthur H. Diamond

Alfred E. Sharpe, 6867, who is living in Baltimore now, was elected to the State Legislature by a vote of 16,678 against 8,875 for his opponent. That's pretty even for the South, where to be a Democrat is to have an ace in the hole. What were all the rest of you fellows elected to? The Meccan would like to know. Shoot in the dope, please.

Noble William E. Louis Michaels, who says he hopes to live long enough to look on 18100 as a low number, sends in a bond subscription "to buy a bag of cement," and suggests that we use "buy a bag of cement" for a slogan. It's a good idea. Cement buyers please form on the right leading up to the Recorder's office. If all of the new Nobles had Michaels' spirit we would be sitting pretty.

Paul Hoffman, 16567, announces his marriage to Miss Martha Dahms on November 13.

Approves the Mosque

Peculiar and unusual endorsement has been given the new Mosque building. It has become one of the "laboratories" of the College of the City of New York.

L. M. Bernfield, C.E., Assistant Engineer of the Borough of Brooklyn, and Chief Lecturer in Building Construction in the college, has asked, and been accorded, permission to bring his classes down to the work at fortnightly intervals to view the progress of construction. Two visits have already been made.

The object of these visits is to give his classes practical instruction in Materials and Construction, Plan Reading and Estimating, Engineering Design, Architectural Engineering, and Estimating and Specifications.

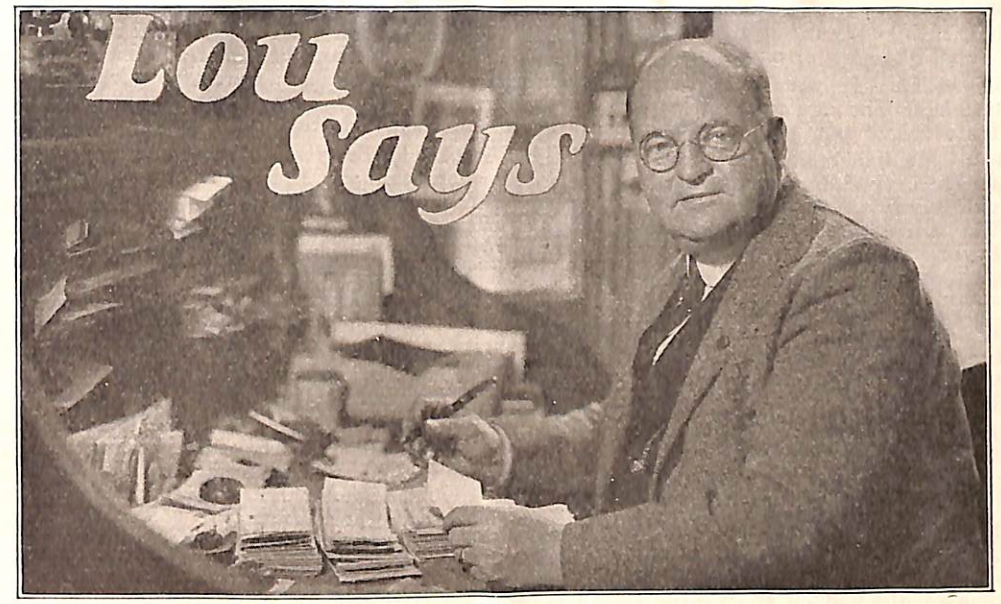
Professor Bernfield told Past Potentate Harry C. Arthur, who with Coppage and Ellis act as cicerones, that the Mecca Mosque combines more interesting architectural points and presents a greater variety of angles than any other building now in course of construction in New York City, and gives his class a broader field than he can find anywhere else.

Harry and the various foremen are glad to be of assistance and take a true worker's delight in the approval from so high a source of the plans and construction methods, for both the architect's plans and the manner of their carrying out have come in for the approval of this expert.

It's about time that we of Mecca realized that the Mosque is something more than a Shrine building. It is an architectural feature in the very center of architectural excellence.

Noble Charles Elmer Messler, 13983, as High Priest of Triune Chapter, closed his year's work Monday, November 26, with the record for Triune Chapter, having exalted the largest number of companions in the history of the chapter, notwithstanding that all other chapters are falling behind their previous high records. Noble Dr. Stuart E. Mandeville succeeds Noble Messler as Triune's High Priest.

Daniel J. Levowitz, 18059, announces his betrothal to Miss Gertrude Freed. Lou has a $5,000 bond that would make a terribly swagger wedding present for the bride. Think that over, Dan.



ONE of the things I had to be thankful for on Thanksgiving was the fact that the Session was held on November 27 and not on the 30th. At the last Imperial Council Session the Shrine year was declared to run from December 1 to the following November 30, instead of with the calendar. This was because most temples close their own books after the November Session. This is the law of Mecca Temple, and has been for years, and as soon as the Session was over the other night I had to start to write my books up to date that they might be ready for the inspection of the Audit Committee elected at the Session.

There was a class of 190, and as each name must be entered thirteen times, that meant the writing of nearly 2,600 names, not to mention the financial and other facts. And the books had to be ready for the Audit Committee on December 1 that they might get right to work since their time is so short.

The audit is far from being a perfunctory inspection. Each item is checked up and traced through the various books. If I enter the $150 received for a candidate's petition, that $150 is traced through the bank into the accounts of the treasurer and the trustees. Every item of disbursement is looked into. No national bank examiner is more painstaking, and to do all this and get a report ready to present at a session nineteen days later is no child's play. It has been a busy season.

And the bills cannot go out until the books are returned to me, since all bills are checked against these books and the work was not completed before they went to audit. I'm willing to admit that I have been busy.

We are out of the woods now, and pretty soon the bills will be started out. May I again remind you that when you send in your check and receive a card for 1924 that card is your receipt and ample proof that you stand clear on the books. This is all you need, but if you require a receipted bill you can have one, though it really is not necessary. As I explained, the idea of using the card as a receipt is to avoid the loss of cards through carelessness in pulling out the receipt and forgetting to fish out the card.

The card states on its face that you have paid your dues for 1924. That's all a receipted bill can tell.

That's going to be the last you will hear about dues until about this time next year. It has always been a boast of Mecca Temple that we do not write a collection item into every notice.

At the last sittings of the Membership Committee there were several instances wherein the proposer or seconder of a candidate could not state positively that his candidate was a bona fide resident of this

jurisdiction. Some did not know where their men really did live.

Such a condition is intolerable and calls for action. If you want to keep out of trouble, do not sign the petition of any candidate unless you know positively that he is a bona fide resident of this jurisdiction and has every intention of remaining a resident. It is better to be safe than sorry. This warning has been repeatedly given. If you find that the penalty lies against you, don't blame anyone but yourself.

Take a run up to Fifty-fifth Street some day and look over the Mosque building. You will be surprised to find the work in such a state of forwardness. Noble Arthur almost lives on the job and the building is progressing with less friction than is generally found on a large operation.

For one thing, the Holding Committee sits in conference with the heads of the various branches of the work every Wednesday morning. The work of the past week is talked over, the work for the week to come is planned on the trestle board, and through these talks it has been found possible to avoid many of the usual delays which generally are due to a lack of coordination between the heads of the various crafts: the masons, steel workers, interior fitters and other artisans. At these meetings difficulties are foreseen and avoided, and the utmost harmony prevails.

We are carrying out the Masonic injunction to see that none go away dissatisfied, and to this harmony is due in part the speed with which the work is being pushed forward. Now and then a delayed shipment of steel will slow down the progress, but each Wednesday when I go up to the lot I am surprised at the advancement made, and I think that we are fortunate in being represented by so able a man as Noble Harry C. Arthur, who has the rare gift of being able to make and hold all men his friends. The men on the lot swear by him.

If this rate of progress keeps up we should be able to gain possession of the premises earlier than anticipated.

But there is one phase which has not kept pace with the rest. The sale of the bond issue is unduly slow. Some few splendid Nobles have made repeated purchases, but the rank and file seem to feel that it is none of their business. They are prolific with *excuses* where *funds* are needed. This condition must be improved if we are not pressently to be tied up for want of money.

And now is a most auspicious time to make a purchase. Your wife cannot wear a $500 bond around her neck or decorate her ears with a pair of the $100 issue, but she probably will appreciate a bond in the storage box and the semi-annual check will be a constant reminder of you. Why not make bonds your Christmas presents to your family? Can you think of anything more welcome or more permanent? The time is growing short. Send in your check at once if you wish them in time for Christmas delivery. Slip it into an envelope, decorate it with Christmas seals and you have a seasonable gift that is guaranteed to last for twenty years *and then be as good as new*. Did you ever look at it in that light? You make a present of one hundred or five hundred dollars. For twenty years the recipient will be paid five dollars for each hundred invested and then, when the money has been fully repaid in interest, there comes a new gift of the original sum, which can be again invested in some other security.

And a bond is a splendid thing to teach the younger generation the valuable lesson of thrift. Show your boy that a piece of paper will give him $2.50 twice each year and still be worth its full face value. Get him into the habit of saving his money for similar purchases.

There are many members who cannot afford to divert any of their capital from their immediate business interests, but there are few who cannot afford at least one one hundred dollar bond. Why not have one for sentiment, if for nothing else?

With this issue The Meccan closes another volume and ends another chapter in its career. Sometimes I wonder if you of Mecca Temple realize the value of this little publication. To many of you who live close to this Oasis it is just a notice of meetings, but to hundreds of members it is a letter from home which keeps the exile in touch with his Mother Temple. To the officers of other temples it is often a source of inspiration. We, the editor and myself, wish to thank you for your support and interest. We are going to try to make it even better next year. And may that new year be to you one of prosperity and success. We salute you with the Arab's greeting. Peace! And the compliments of the season.

Yours in the Faith,

Louis N. Donnatin

Recorder.

Past Potes No Has-Beens

Splendid Ceremonial Marks the Last Initiation of Potentate Diamant's Term. Election Next

POTENTATE ARTHUR H. DIAMANT delivered the goods in full measure at the last Ceremonial Session of the season at the Seventy-first Regiment Armory, November 27. He announced a Past Potentates' Night, when the chairs would be filled by the past officers, and with two exceptions all of the stations were filled by those who had worn the purple, and with one exception every living Past Potentate of Mecca Temple was present and participated in the work.

Only our senior Past Potentate, Charles A. Benedict, was absent. There were not enough Past Potentates to go around, so Tom Roane held his regular job as Marshal, and the Captain of the Guard also held over.

It was a brilliant spectacle, and a fitting close for a year which has been hugely enjoyed by the Nobility. The novelty of seeing the past officers do the work brought out a larger crowd than usual. All of the floor seats were taken and more than half of the balcony was filled; an unusual gathering.

Attendance has been getting better with each session this year, as the Nobles have found out that what The Meccan has been telling about the fast work is entirely true. So large a portion of our membership lives out of town that it is something of an achievement to fill the huge armory, but the boys know now that they can see the whole show without being compelled to go home on the newspaper train, and the out-of-town contingents are coming in larger numbers with each session.

The meeting was called to order promptly at half past seven with the regular Divan officers in their appointed places. The business session was entirely perfunctory, the reading of the minutes, the Roll-call of the Dead, election of candidates and a few brief remarks about the bond issue and other things by the Potentate. There was no bond drive. Arthur simply told them that we needed the money, and asked that the subscription blanks be filled in when they were passed around. Then he went on to other matters, and there was no further time spent upon that. The assistant directors passed the blanks during the band concert and a number of pledges were obtained.

There was nothing before the temple for discussion and it was not much after eight when the band concert was announced.

This was held to four numbers, since there was not the usual delay while the officers robed. Only Lou Donnatin had to dress, the others having robed during the business session.

The band played three numbers straight and then played "Semper et Fideles" to give the field music a chance. Something happened, and the bugles barely whispered, but the drums were going full blast.

Then came the big feature of the evening. Assigned in the order of their seniority, this was the Divan:

William J. Matthews, Potentate.
Thomas A. Lewis, Chief Rabban.
Robert D. Williams, Assistant Rabban.
Louis N. Donnatin, High Priest and Prophet.
Thomas J. Price, Oriental Guide.
Harry C. Arthur, First Ceremonial Master.
Paul Jones, Second Ceremonial Master.

The appearance of Past Potentate Tom Lewis was a surprise to most of the members, for it has been a number of years since business permitted him to take an active part in the affairs of the temple. To most of the Nobles created in the past few years Tom is merely a name, if even that, for it is the first time in more than ten years that we have had the pleasure of seeing him at a meeting.

And Tom seemed to enjoy his visit as much as we did. He did his part like a veteran, and carried himself with the splendid carriage that made him one of the most imposing Potentates we have ever had. It's too darned bad that Tom was ever permitted to drop out. Even if he *was* busy he should have been persuaded that he was not *too* busy, and we hope that he has made the discovery that he can be a business man and still drop in on us.

It was a feather in Arthur's cap that he was able to get Tom out for this occasion, and show the Nobility what we have been missing. Twenty years ago there was no more popular Mason than Tom Lewis. He

made a fine Potentate, following a term as Master of the Lodge of Perfection, and hundreds of his old friends were delighted to welcome his return.

To give him an additional incentive, Tommy Price presented him with a Past Potentate's fez, all gold thread and plate glass, and in a very happy speech he explained that he had been delegated to present Tom with the proper headgear of a Past Potentate and expressed the hope that he would wear it often to the meetings. Tom ought to come more often now if for no other reason than to keep the moths out of the fez.

Each of the past officers was given a round of applause as he came down the floor to his station and everyone was too polite to laugh at Lou Donnatin in his robes as High Priest. Lou is hardly slender enough to wear white, but he had to, and he did. He was immense in more senses than one.

He lacked the usual appendage of a High Priest, for it had been decided that only Past Potentates should occupy the Divan places, and that let out Jake May, who has been assistant to the High Priest, since the memory of most Nobles runneth not to the contrary. Jake looked as though he feared the Imperial Council would declare the initiation irregular and illegal if he were not there to help, but that was that. Not even the Potentate himself took the stage while it was turned over to those who were and who came back.

Naturally the bulk of the work fell upon Billy Matthews, who has been longest off the job. Billy must have put in a lot of study, for he went through with the ritual with only one break and a couple of hesitations. Billy should know the work pretty well, at that, for he was Potentate for five or six years; the last of the long-timers. After he dropped out the terms were cut to two years, and now a single term is the unwritten law. Even Cyp Hunt could not make it two years in succession.

What we particularly liked was the recitation of the "Inspired Charge," to which he gave the full cadence of the verse without the sing-song which too often spoils recited poetry. His voice held well, and though this long charge came at the end of an evening of hard work, his voice was full and round and he gave real meaning to the lines.

Lou Donnatin had the next hardest job, and it was the more difficult because he did not serve as High Priest. In his days the travel started with the Assistant Rabban, and the High Priest was a fixture, first Charles H. Heyzer, then John Lloyd Thomas for a year or two, with Cyp Hunt following until he got into the line and turned the job over to Lloyd Bingham. Lou did not have to "brush up." He had to memorize the work, and we know that is what he did, because we saw him studying.

In spite of a cold which has bothered him ever since Summer flitted, he put over the lines with impressiveness, and gave no hint that he was making his debut in this part.

The two Rabbans have it easy. It is a sort of vacation between the High Priest and the Potentateship, and Tom and Bob had little to brush up.

Tommy Price was another blushing debutante. He started as a Rabban and never led the cortege over the hot sands, but if the law business ever takes a slump in the Bronx (which Allah forefend!), we'll be glad to write Tommy a recommendation as dragoman.

He had his work cut out for him, since there were 190 poor and unwashed sons of the Desert to ride herd on, but Tommy knew the route and all the waterholes and the oases, and he got his crowd safely through the perils without letting them fall into the hands of the Bedouins of the desert more often than it is written in The Book.

In this he was ably assisted by the Arab Patrol under Captain Frank Fowler. Perhaps it was in compliment to Past Potentate's Night that Frank put back the old drill. Perhaps it was because it is about the best routine of figures we have ever had, but at any rate, that was what the boys tackled and they went through the work with a precision that brought them plenty of applause during the drill and let them go off the floor to a final burst of handclapping that testified the esteem in which this body is held by the Nobility.

In other words, the Patrol was up to the standard set for this Ceremonial, which was about the best of the season.

Following the serious ceremonial came the second section with the Patrol in fine fettle and the candidates as nervous as Tommy Price's June bride in the story. The Shrine makes no distinction as to creed, but we were surprised to find so many Holy Rollers in the congregation. One man set a new record for distance and speed, and there were a lot of them who thought about the hospital corps an hour or so too late. Funny what a lot of candidates there are who remember what their

doctor told them about violent exercise about the time the Patrol warms to its work. Down in the candidates' room they feel that they can stand the strain and make no objection when the medical corps passes them into the active workers, but before they get halfway through the floor work they remember that the doctor told them they must walk very slowly and avoid shocks, and you can hear them telling this to the Patrol all over the place.

There is no record of any Patrolman who ever believed the stories, and it never seems to do much good, but to hear them tell it, about twenty-five per cent of those who stayed in for the second section did so against their physicians' express orders and advice.

The stunts were in good working order and not only were they full of pep juice, but they passed the pep along to the candidates, many of whom moved faster than they have since they left off playing baseball. It was all hugely enjoyed by the oversize audience, and the stunts largely explain the larger attendance. In the open floor plan there is about ten times as much work done, and so about ten times as many opportunities for a good laugh. Not since Terrace Garden has the work been so much enjoyed.

The stage presentation, first used by Cyp Hunt, has its advantages, but it is too slow in comparison with the continuous performance style in the arena form, and we hope that Ross Cox will retain this idea until we move into the new mosque, where an arena has been provided in the plans.

On account of the size of the class the second section ran a little longer than at the Spring meetings, and it was a quarter past ten before the Patrol and Directors began to remove the apparatus in preparation for the entertainment. Generally this is over by ten.

There was a further delay in the preparations for the show. The big feature was to be the showing of the motion pictures of the corner-stone laying, made by the Gantz company. The cables had been run beforehand, but at the critical moment a fuse blew, entailing a delay until one of the floor acts could be rushed into play.

It is to be regretted that this time was wasted, for through the courtesy of Victor Shapiro, of the Pathe Exchange, we had borrowed an Our Gang comedy, "Lodge Night," which is one of the funniest of this delightful series, and most highly appropriate.

This would have been a knockout could it have been shown, for it might have been made to order for our use, but the Pote thought that with the vaudeville, plus the delay it would be better to cut it out. We did get an Aesop's Fable, also from the Pathe Exchange. This is a cartoon comedy with real comedy back of the grotesque drawings, and it made a very decided hit. Personally, this writer regards them as the best of the cartoon series, and the bulk of the audience seemed to share this opinion, though some had seen it before. Most people could see it several times and still laugh.

The corner-stone pictures are rather short. It will be remembered that the parade came somewhat late in the afternoon, when the conditions were not favorable for photography. Under the circumstances the results were remarkably good, particularly the close-up showing Most Worshipful Arthur S. Tompkins delivering his fine oration. The details of the ceremony are shown, and there is a fine view of the parade, though Salaam Temple is unfortunately cut out. We were lucky to get what we did.

This film comes into the possession of the Temple and will be added to our film library. Presently we shall add to it the more splendid ceremonials of the dedication.

Provision had been made for three acts of vaudeville, but at the last moment three more came along, so there were six acts on the bill in addition to the pictures, and the program ran until after 11:30. This is rather long, but not twenty per cent of the Nobles left before the Pote announced that the show was all over. They liked it and they were willing to stay longer, if necessary. In time we believe that Mecca could be trained to stick around until the milk comes in, the same as they do over in Lulu, where a Shriner's wife is afraid he is ill if he gets home before breakfast.

The first act was a South American troupe with marimbas. Six men played on this xylophone with resonators while another provided a bass viol accompaniment and a man and woman did a couple of tangos. It was a snappy act, and much appreciated; particularly the dancing.

In line with his previous talk, the Pote warned that any conversation would result in the shutting down of the entertainment, and the result was that the acts could be enjoyed in quiet. Arthur has checked the

tendency which spoiled more than one good program at Carnegie Hall.

The second number was the Solti troupe of dancers, a quartet of acrobatic dancers with a novel basketball dance for an opener and some tumbling stunts for a second number. There was also a clever solo dancer, who had the temerity to sing a little, and who later did a duo dance with a man partner. It's a showy act, and it pleased.

There was also the phonograph trio in a group of songs. They got over only fairly well.

Heading the volunteers came Lillian Wagner, who sang at Ladies' Night and who came back to sing "Kiss in the Dark," which she forgot to bring the music for election night. She was the knockout of the entire show.

That's something to give a little thought to. There was shown some snappy dancing and acrobatic work, which is popularly supposed to appeal to the masculine taste, and yet a straight singing act—*good* singing—pulled down the laurel, and got the strongest encore applause of the evening.

She sang two solos and then came back with Sibylla Bohan, who does a peculiar dance form in which posturing and acrobatic work are curiously combined. She will strike a dozen graceful poses, each a picture in itself, and then punctuate with a somersault or a handspring. This and her peculiar costuming of black ankle-length dress and high-neck bodice, together with a white wig, give her turn a marked individuality.

She first did a solo and then came back to dance while Miss Wagner sang.

The last visitor was Walter Preston, lately of the "Springtime of Youth." He displayed a light and pleasing tenor, and he got away with two songs in great shape as the last number on the bill.

This is one matter wherein Potentate Diamant is not following his policy of back to the good old days. He adds some modern improvements, and gives a larger show than we used to have. It is one of the few points wherein we are not wholly in accord with his policy. We think that the show runs a little too long. A lively acrobatic turn and a dance, or something like that, is plenty following a stronger comedy than any vaudeville turn can put on.

The initiation is the real show, and there is plenty of fun here for a couple of full evening entertainments.

But you have to hand it to Arthur for getting out a good crowd for a good session. Each meeting this year the crowd has been larger than at the previous session.

Of course, the business session is largely a technicality. The only session where there was need for debate was held in a smaller hall. No other important questions have been brought up, so that there has been small test of the patience of the crowd.

The real answer seems to be that if a session is started on time and is run without delays, even a large crowd will remain quiet and attentive during the serious portions of the work, and no one cares how much they may yell at the initiation. That is what it is for.

This is the last of the Ceremonial Sessions for the year, and it was not only by far the best, from point of attendance, but one of the smartest if allowance be made for the unavoidable delay caused by the failure of the electrical apparatus.

We are not so enthusiastic over the restoration of the traditional banquet. This has not worked so well, but you don't have to go down in the basement and clamor for a dog unless you want to. Taken at large, the ceremonials have been decidedly successful, and a credit to the Temple.

Noble George E. Briggs, 3682, a life member of Mecca, a worker in the vineyards of Masonry for over a quarter of a century, having served the Grand Lodge as Grand Steward and later as one of its District Deputy Grand Masters, then a worker in the Scottish Rite Body, and by his untiring work in the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, finally became the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of New York, and it is conceded on all sides by all the Past Grand chapter officers and Past Grand High Priests that no man has ever filled this high and important office with such ability. He has visited every county in the State formally, and has visited nearly 200 chapters in all parts of the State during the year of his incumbency. No man has ever come near this record.

Noble Harry De Steese, 10167, King of Ancient Chapter Royal Arch Masons, has joined the staff of the *Foreword*, New York's only and fast-growing weekly Masonic newspaper, as its advertising manager.

You Are Dated for December 20

Come to Mecca's Big Family Party. It's Our Get-Together Night. Brief Reports, Short Election, But *Plenty* of Entertainment

EACH year the custom grows of coming to Mecca Temple's annual family party, otherwise known as the Annual Session. Time was when the Annual Meeting was regarded as a rather dull event, especially after it was made a law that the degree could not be conferred at that time.

Nobles felt that it was more or less a waste of time to come down and listen to the reports and watch someone given the privilege of casting a single ballot for the man next in line to be moved up one peg. It lacked excitement.

Things were dull for a time! That's admitted, but all this has been changed in late years. Now the Annual Meeting is one of the sessions the experienced Nobles keep a date open for. They know that it is the finest time of the year, and with the passage of time the Annual Meeting has come to be the star event to many who do not care particularly for the initiation.

It's a time for friendliness and the renewal of friendships. It's a time for visits and the swapping of reminiscences, and the man who remembers when the Shrine used to meet in the old Scottish Rite Cathedral puts it all over the late comer who went through in the Madison Square Garden Concert Hall, but unites with him to regard as a baby the higher numbered men who can trace no further back than Terrace Garden or the Amsterdam Opera House.

And then there is always a good show; better than usual, and you don't have to douse the glim on your cigar point when the candidates come in, because there are no candidates to muss things up.

And then there is the always pretty ceremony of giving out the Life Memberships to those who have celebrated their twenty-fifth Shrine birthday during the year. It is fine to see the old timers come to the front to get the reward of clean Masonic living. It's just a nicely printed piece of paper, but it's something that no one can buy or otherwise obtain before the appointed time. The most popular Potentate that ever ruled cannot get his Life Membership a single day before he has served twenty-five consecutive years in the Shrine. It's not something you can pick up with a check. It's the visible evidence that you have an unblemished record for the past twenty-five years, and you can't blame the old timers for being proud when their names are called and they come forward.

Just that ceremony alone is worth the evening to the man who has an ounce of sentiment in his carcass. He can sit there and think of the day when he, too, will be called to the stage and will go forward, not with the springy step of today, perhaps, but with the same bounding eagerness in his heart.

All those things go to make up the Annual Meeting. These and more. And to top it all is the show, and Potentate Diamant promises that this year's program will be extra special.

You are not being coaxed down for any ulterior motive. So far as we know there will be no contests over the election. It's just that once each year we like to have all the good old timers come and meet the new members, to enlarge their friendships and instruct the novices in the lore of Mecca. We want to see as many as we can crowd into the hall, and year after year each Potentate makes a special effort to get up a program that will excel the memories of the past.

This year will be no exception. The Entertainment Committee, which has functioned so signally well this year, will put out its best effort. There will be a fine regular program and perhaps some special surprise acts. Many of you will recall the delightful visit we had with Noble Witmark a few years ago. Perhaps there will be something as good this time. It's one of the delights of the Annual Meeting that you never know the fullness of the measure you will receive.

And the Potentate especially desires the presence of the men who have gone through under his administration. He regards these classes as even more his own than the rank and file. He particularly asks you all to come down; to make a special effort to be present; to cancel other engagements, if necessary. He wants to start you right. He wants to show you, at the end of your

first year, that the Annual Meeting is not merely "just election." He promises you that he will make every effort to make this, his last session, the best yet. He has given us some fine ceremonials. He has offered a couple of sprightly Ladies' Nights. Now come and see how much better he is going to do for the big affair.

All the year he has worked hard and efficiently to keep things going at a rapid pace. He has speeded up the sessions and made it possible for the out-of-town Noble to come and get all of the fun before his train leaves. Now he wants to tell you, in a brief report, just what he has done. He wants to thank you in person for the support you have given him and the praise you have bestowed.

Come on down. We can care for six thousand, and that's only half our membership, though it is fairly close to the number of those who live within easy reaching distance.

Then there is another angle. You'll want to know who is elected. It looks as though all will be advanced one peg, but even if that is the case, you will want to slap Ross Cox on the back, and shake Billy Harnisch's hand, congratulate Colonel DeLamater and tell Ed Sharp that now he will have some *real* work to do as High Priest.

And then there is the selection of the new Oriental Guide, who comes into the line to make his slow advance toward the top. This is an important job. You'll want to be there to help.

More and more the question of fitness of the lower line officers becomes important. The Oriental Guide of today is the Potentate of the morrow. Come and help elect a good man. It won't take long, and there will be ten minutes of fun for every minute of work.

The reports will be easy. Chris Gerhardt's report is a marvel of simplicity and Lou briefs his to the quick. Arthur will take a little longer with his valedictory, but not very long, and the auditors will give merely a summary. The full report will be printed later, so the details are spared.

Arthur Hoffman has the Band practicing new music, and promises some surprises, and you have paid out real money to hear concerts not so good as the Mecca Band at its best.

As the front page will tell you, this will he held in the Seventy-first Regiment Armory on Thursday evening, December 20. An effort was made to book the Saturday date, but both the following Saturday and the 29th were taken and we were lucky to be able to get the date we did. This is about a week earlier than usual, but until we have our own home we must take what we can get and be thankful for that.

Next year it will probably be different. We'll simply decide on the date we desire and set that apart in the booking sheet. Now we have to take what is available. But you'll find that this is better than the later date. There is always a rush of special entertainments later in the month, and there may be something you will not care to miss. Get out your date books and write down the engagement, mark it on the calendar and imprint it on the tablets of your memory. Then hang up the front page of this issue where you can see it every day, as a constant reminder.

You may think that this is wasting a lot of words on one session, but it is not. It has been found that these Annual Meetings serve a distinct purpose. They bring out the infrequent attendant, and we want the regulars to be there to meet them. The Shrine is getting so large that the old intimacy of contact is less pronounced, and so the Divan makes this special effort to bring out the old timers and the newcomers and get them together in one big party, to the end that they shall come to know each other, to fuse together and to get an evening of solid enjoyment. There was a time when an attendance of three or four hundred was regarded as good at an Annual Meeting. Six or seven hundred was a crowd.

This is not right. Let's make this a Shrine evening. Let's dedicate this to ourselves. That is the spirit in which each Potentate approaches the end of his term. On his journey up the ladder he has been able to perceive the value of these family affairs and he comes to the throne with the determination to have his party just a shade better than the ones that have preceded. In a sense it is his personal party, and he wants to have all his friends there. He comes in the monarch of all he surveys and goes out with a new boss over him. It's his last taste of royalty and he wants to make it a party to be remembered.

A brave man will try anything once. Come this time. If you don't care for it, stay away next year, but first know from personal experience and not guesswork just what these specials are.

Tips for Novices

Some of the Things All New Nobles Should Know, But Which Many of Them Have to Find Out by Degrees

LAST month it was suggested that the proposer make certain that his candidate be posted about the things all Shriners should know.

And two letters suggested very promptly that we go and do the job ourselves, one of the writers frankly confessing that there was a lot about the Shrine he did not know himself.

There is, of course, much instruction which cannot be conveyed in the pages of The Meccan, but there are some things that may be news to Nobles who are not altogether new. The necessary means of recognition will be picked up either from some older member or through repetition at later sessions, when the candidate of the previous meeting can give his attention to the lecture without having to keep his eye peeled for imaginary trapdoors and other pitfalls.

It may, however, be said that the words and signs are supplemented by a year card, carrying the Noble's name and number. These cards are printed upon specially lithographed stock supplied by the Imperial Recorder as a precaution against the duplication of cards by swindlers. Where the cards were locally printed on regulation stock it was merely a matter of duplicating the ink and general type display, and this latter was often done by the photoengraving process. It is more difficult and far more expensive to produce the lithographed card stock, and this was introduced for the first time this year.

By the law of the Imperial Council this card must be shown at the door of any temple at which admission is desired, including the Noble's own temple. The tyler is known as the Outer Guard, and is supplemented by an Inner Guard. Generally the Outer Guard inspects the card and takes up the first word. The Inner Guard takes up the second word and sometimes also demands the card. The color of the card is changed each year, and this makes the identification easy.

It is the law of the Imperial Council that dues must be paid for the current year in advance, and a card may not be issued until these dues and the personal assessment of each Noble of two dollars yearly for the benefit and support of the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children has been paid. Both the dues and assessment must be paid before the card may be issued. The payment of dues alone is not sufficient.

In some temples it is possible to purchase life membership for a lump sum. In Mecca Temple life membership is a reward for 25 years of uninterrupted membership. If a member is suspended or expelled he loses his record and must start anew if restored.

Another law of the Imperial Council requires that the subordinate temple must take action on any member who is two years in arrears for dues. It does not specify what this action shall be, but it is generally understood to mean suspension for non-payment of dues.

The hospitals assessment is collected by the temple for the Trustees of the hospitals, but is a direct charge against the individual member. It is the requirement that the temple pay this assessment in a lump sum in January, the presumption being that the assessment has been collected from the individual Noble by that time.

The Imperial Council is the supreme or governing body. It is composed of from one to four elected representatives from each temple, according to the membership of that temple. Nobles who have represented their temples in the Imperial Council for twenty-five years are made life members. There are also other classes of life members. Noble James McGee, of Mecca Temple, is an emeritus member, having figured prominently in the affairs of the Imperial Council in its early stages. Incidentally he is the oldest living Shriner, being number 27 in point of membership.

The officers of the Imperial Council are the same as those of a subordinate temple, with the addition of a Deputy Potentate. All carry the prefix of Imperial, as "Imperial Potentate."

There is a session of the Imperial Council each year, generally in June, when the usual legislative action is taken at a three-day session and new officers are elected, the line generally moving up one position and the election centering upon the position of Imperial Outer Guard, the lowest position.

These sessions are held wherever convenient, the next place of meeting being determined at the preceeding session. The session for 1924 will be held in Kansas City. It is the custom of many temples to send their uniformed bodies as escort to their representatives, and frequently the Nobles and their families will join the party in a caravan or pilgrimage. Often the attendance from one temple will range from 300 to 1,000.

The subordinate temples are under the guidance of a Potentate and his Divan. The word is derived from "deewan," an Arabic word. In Arabic houses the guest chamber is generally provided with a bench or platform running around three sides of the room. That side facing the entrance is the most honorable and is called the deewan. Those on the side are leewans. The Divan of a temple is, therefore, those who sit in the place of honor on the deewan.

The officers are the Illustrious Potentate, the Chief and Assistant Rabbans, the High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Marshal, First and Second Ceremonial Masters, and Director, together with the Recorder, or Secretary, and Treasurer.

This makes thirteen officers, thirteen having always been considered to be the lucky number of the Shrine, which was founded largely by members of the original Thirteen Club. There were thirteen charter members of Mecca Temple, which was the first body of the Order in North America, antedating the Imperial Council by two years. Mecca Temple was founded in New York City in 1872 and was originally known as "New York Temple." It was not until the formation of the Imperial Council that it was determined that all temples should be called by Arabic or Egyptian names.

Each temple has complete jurisdiction over a certain territory, and may not draw from the territory of another temple without the permission or "waiver" of the infringed temple. Where this is done without waiver, the offending temple is liable to the arrest of its charter.

The jurisdiction of Mecca Temple covers all that part of the State between New York and Poughkeepsie, running from the State line between New York and Connecticut to a line drawn through Watkins Glen. Cyprus Temple has jurisdiction north of the line. Long Island is excepted from this jurisdiction as belonging exclusively to Kismet. In some sections several temples have concurrent jurisdiction, the candidate electing the temple he will join, but this does not hold good in the more densely settled sections of the East, where the lines are very strictly joined.

The Potentate, Rabbans, High Priest and Prophet, the Oriental Guide and the Recorder and Treasurer are elected, while the rest are appointed by the Potentate. There are numerous offices of courtesy created at the will of the Potentate. These are not officially recognized though the custom has the sanction of long usage.

In Mecca Temple there are also five "Executive Members" elected who are supposed to represent the floor in the Executive Committee and act as the Finance Committee in the Executive Committee. There are also elected the four Representatives to the Imperial Council, to which the temple is entitled, and one Trustee, whose term is three years, one being elected each year. These Trustees are the custodians of such funds as are set apart by the temple for a reserve. At present these funds have been diverted to the building of the Mosque.

Of each initiation fee $100 goes into the building fund and $50 for the conduct of the temple, while the dues of $10 yearly are divided equally between the building and the special funds.

At present there is in existence the Mecca Temple Holding Company, comprising a number of the Past Potentates, who represent the temple in the building of the Mosque. The temple as a body has nothing to do with the construction of the building, which will be erected by the Holding Company and turned over to the temple upon its completion. This is in accordance with modern usage, which favors small, efficient bodies for the handling of large affairs.

The Executive Committee comprises the thirteen Divan officers, the five Executive Members, the Trustees, the Past Potentates and the Captain of the Arab Patrol. This body sits each month to audit the bills, consider plan and scope and generally handle the affairs of the temple, subject to the approval of the body as a whole. This committee has power to call before it offending members and to consider complaints and direct trial of the offender, where such may be considered necessary. It is presided over by the Potentate, acting as chairman.

Charges are considered by a committee specially appointed, trial is held in private and the findings of the committee submitted to the body at its next meeting for approval. The decision of the temple as a whole determines the fate of the offender.

The temple is governed under a set of

By-Laws, adopted in open session and approved by the Imperial Council. These By-Laws may be amended by the presentation in writing of the proposed amendment at any session. This must be published in the official notice of the next session, and is then acted upon. The amendment, if adopted, does not fully become a law until approved by the Imperial Council at its next session.

Sessions of the temple are held upon call or at stated times, according to the charter. The sessions of Mecca Temple are held on the call of the Potentate. The Annual Meeting and election of officers is held in December. Other sessions may be held whenever desired and in any part of the jurisdiction, due notice being given. The Meccan is the official notice.

In addition to the ceremonials, there are usually held one or more entertainments for the ladies, known as Ladies' Nights, to which a Noble is generally permitted to escort two ladies. He must present his current year card and give the words of entrance, precisely as at a regular session. There may also be held theatre parties, when the Nobles attend in a body some designated performance. For these affairs the seats are purchased at the box office of the theatre, but generally the entire house is reserved for us until a few days before the performance and the year card must be shown. At these affairs a Noble may escort as many friends of either sex as he is willing to pay for.

There is also some celebration for the children, generally in April. To these events the Nobility may send only his own children, the tickets being given in the order of the receipt of the applications to the capacity of the place in which the entertainment is held. The special rules governing these children's events are printed in the issue of The Meccan in which the event is announced, but generally two tickets are given to children, or one ticket for a child if an adult is required to conduct the child. The adult ticket is charged for.

Election to membership is by ballot, three black balls rejecting. As the list of applicants is carefully scanned, it is customary to cast one ballot for the entire class, but a cloudy ballot will require the individual balloting on each name.

To avoid the casting of two or three hundred ballots, it is provided that the written objection of three Nobles of Mecca Temple, stating fully the reasons for objecting to a candidate, will act the same as an adverse ballot. The candidate thus rejected may petition again in thirteen weeks.

Candidates are required to report before the Membership Committee for inspection and inquisition prior to a session. Notice of the sitting of this committee is sent by mail to the applicant.

Petitions must carry the signatures of two members of Mecca Temple, who vouch for the candidate upon their honor. If misstatement is made, the proposer and seconder are held culpable and are liable to drastic discipline. All applications must be accompanied by a check for the initiation fee, the hospitals assessment for the current year and the unexpired portion of the yearly dues.

Upon initiation the candidate is provided by mail with his year card, and later is given a diploma of membership from the Imperial Council. The year card is promptly sent. The delivery of the diplomas is governed by the promptness of the Imperial Recorder's office. Generally they are sent within thirty days, but a longer period may elapse.

Each candidate is given a distinguishing number, which is a part of his Shrine signature and should always be used in all communications with the Recorder for more ready identification. These numbers are assigned after each session and given in alphabetical order. The numbers are now up in 18,000, but the active membership is approximately 12,000, Salaam and Kismet Temples having been formed from Mecca through dispensation and charter.

Money should not be loaned stranger Nobles. If they are entitled to aid they can obtain it through their own Recorders. Generally any application for a loan is made by a swindler who has obtained a year card through fraud, and should be refused.

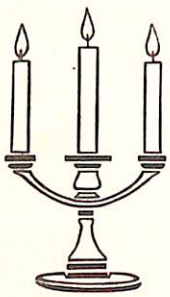
The uniformed bodies or "units" of Mecca Temple are the Arab Patrol, Assistant Directors, Band and Field Music.

The Arab Patrol conducts the candidates during the ceremonies of the first section and initiates them during the second. The Assistant Directors have charge of the floor, policing the auditorium, take charge of the candidates and perform such other duties as the Director may assign them to. The Band renders the ceremonial music and with the field music turns out for parades and other functions.

In Memoriam

ADMITTED TO THE UNSEEN TEMPLE

7209	William L. Myerly	November 14, 1923
14471	Berthold G. R. Voight	November 23, 1923
6505	Herbert S. Peare	November 8, 1923
347	Clarence H. Sanford	November 25, 1923
2114	Robert E. Gaskell	November 24, 1923
2781	Walter M. Taussig	November 28, 1923
5789	James A. Brown	August 19, 1923



These shall be rewarded with the high places of Paradise for their steadfast endurance, and they shall meet therein with—Welcome and Salutation:

Forever shall they remain therein, a fair abode and a resting place.

Koran XXV; 75-76.

For the guidance of the Nobility we publish the law in regard to the proper way to conduct the election of officers. It is as follows:

"Article IV—Section 1. Each Temple shall elect its elective officers and its Representative or Representatives by ballot, by a majority vote in each case, said election to be held at the regular meeting to be held in December of each year. Each elective officer shall be elected separately and by distinct ballot, the use of a blanket ballot for the election of officers being prohibited. Blank ballots are not votes and shall not be considered as such. If there be but one Representative to be elected the same rule shall prevail. If the Temple is to elect more than one Representative, all candidates for the office of Representative shall be balloted for on one ballot, and each member voting must vote for the total number of Representatives to be elected; otherwise his ballot cannot be considered as a vote. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary to elect each Representative. If on the first ballot one or more candidates shall receive a majority vote of those present and voting, he or they shall be declared elected. A ballot shall then be taken in the same manner until all Representatives of the Temple are elected."

The circulation or distribution of resolutions, letters, or tickets by a Noble or Nobles suggesting or recommending or containing the names of proposed candidates for office in the Temple is prohibited. For any violation of this section it shall be the duty of the Imperial Potentate to suspend the offending Noble until the next regular session of the Imperial Council.

"The installation of officers shall take place immediately or at the first succeeding session of the Temple."